

upon to suffer injury or possible death in the case of air raids, or other hostile attacks.

Despite the war-time regulations that have been laid upon us; despite the departure of thousands of our young men, and of hundreds of nurses and other women volunteers; despite the gruesome happenings of recent days; despite all these and many other drastic effects of the war, are we as war-minded as we should be? Do we realize as we should that it isn't merely our own personal comfort, or our love of luxuries, or the lives of a few seamen or soldiers, or sailors, that are in jeopardy?

It is hard to believe that we have come to such a realization. If we had done so, as a Nation, we would be devoting our entire thought and effort to pushing the conduct of the war, instead of pursuing our own individual lives as most of us seem to be doing. I am concerned greatly because our people still are putting too many considerations ahead of the *one consideration* that should motivate us—the problem of all-out conduct of the war effort.

We *must* realize that whatever we have, in the way of freedom, of material possessions, of social progress, is in vital danger. The time has come now when many of the aims and objects of our normal National life must be laid aside. To survive, we must distinguish between those that are merely desirable and those that are absolutely essential. We must devote our thought and effort to the essentials.

The time has come when we must accept the fact that, unless America does this war job better by far than has been done to date, we may not have any freedom or material wealth or advancement with which to console ourselves.

Unless we find a way to get our fighting forces, and the supplies they need, to the vital war areas before we are excluded from them altogether, we are apt to find ourselves some day slaves of cruel, ruthless masters, just as millions of our fellow-beings throughout the world are today—just as are some hundreds, perhaps even several thousands of once-free citizens, captured at Wake Island in the Philippines, at Hong Kong, Singapore, and elsewhere.

Along with the old mistaken idea of the invincibility of our Navy, we must discard once and for all the comforting belief that because America has never lost a war, she cannot lose one. We *can* lose this one, and we *will* lose it unless we give to the training of our men, to the production of arms and planes and all the other war necessities, all the vigor and enthusiasm that our great Nation of 130,000,000 people can generate. If we do this, nothing can beat us. If we don't we not only can, but we *will* fall from the high estate in which the people of America have been placed, as a heritage of the gallantry and the progressiveness of generations of patriotic American forefathers.